

Tina Gardner
Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Registrars of Voters
Telephone (203) 563-0111
Fax (203) 563-0130



Elections Department
Wilton Town Hall
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

Testimony—Carole Young-Kleinfeld (D), Tina Gardner(R), Registrars of Voters

SB 348—AAC Post-election Audits—OPPOSE

March 13, 2014

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, and members of the GAE Committee, we thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 348—AAC Post-Election Audits. We are the registrars of voters for the Town of Wilton and oppose this bill, as written, for the following reasons.

- **Limiting the number of districts to be selected for auditing to three districts in any municipality destroys the random nature of Connecticut's post-election audit system.** The integrity of a post-election audit requires that all voting districts have an equal chance to be selected for auditing the performance of voting equipment. In reviewing the descriptions of audit systems in other states, we can find no other state that allows audit sites to be selected by any means other than random selection. Although there currently exists no federal law which addresses post-election audits, previously proposed federal legislation—such as U.S. Representative Rush Holt's landmark legislation in 2008—included language requiring random selection of audit sites as one of the basic foundations of post-election audits.
- **Limiting the number of districts to be selected for auditing to three districts in any municipality –and removing those communities from the subsequent lottery process—shifts the likelihood of audit selection to small and medium-sized towns which often have fewer districts, but with larger numbers of registered voters in each...and, generally, more ballots to be audited in each.** For example, Wilton has 12,000 total registered voters assigned to three voting districts of 4,000 in each. By contrast, Hartford's five smallest voting districts contain 261, 775, 947, 1226, and 1205 registered voters, respectively, with its largest voting district containing 3768 voters. (Source: Hartford Registrar of Voters 3/12/2014).

The cumulative effect of an unfair, non-random lottery process would result in towns with fewer districts—but with more ballots to audit—being selected repeatedly for audits, presenting more of a financial and staffing hardship to those towns whose election budgets are smaller in general.

Please oppose SB 348 as written. Thank you for your consideration.

Town of Wilton
Registrars of Voters